

JOURNALISM IN LONDON.

THE NEWSPAPER PRESS FUND DINNER, NOW THE AFFAIR WAS MANAGED.—LORD HOMPTON ON THE CHAIR.—MINISTER LOWELL'S OPINION OF THE ENTREPRENEUR AND SOCIETY JOURNALISM.—WHY THE PRESS SHOULD SUPPORT ITS OWN CAUSES.

From the British Correspondent of the *Evening News*.—Mr. Lowell, whose good nature is inexpressible, described himself last night as having yielded to the almost pernicious illustrations of Lord Hompton, and consented to appear and speak at the Newspaper Press Fund dinner. It would be presumptuous to contradict Mr. Lowell. Neither he nor any of the other distinguished outsiders present at this extraordinary festival can be expected to confer the dignity and gravity of journalism upon journalists themselves will not consider. Lord Hompton is president of the Fund. He is not a journalist either, except in an amateur way. His contributions reviews sometimes to the weekly papers, and I dare say takes his three or five guineas for them. But he is not a writer for the press in the professional sense, and so neither need he be reproached for his elementary exertions in its behalf.

I hardly know who is to be reproached. Most of the people present last night, at other similar banquets, are still more remote from journalism than Mr. Lowell or Lord Hompton. Cardinal Manning was there, not for the first time. He was good enough to remind his audience that on his last visit he had observed among the company no less a person than Prince Louis Napoleon—since dead. The Prince then sat on the right of the chairman, and the Cardinal on the left. They two were the chief guests of the evening at a newspaper dinner; one of them a great dignitary of the great church which is the deadliest enemy of the Free Press; the other the son and heir presumptive of the Emperor who had made it his first business to silence every journal he could not corrupt. Then also, as again last night, and as there will be next year, were gathered together a motley company of Peers and Commons, naval and military officers on half pay or on whole pay, aldermen and sheriffs of the City of London, baronets, baronets, knights, and a stray clergyman or two. At the end of the long list which some of the papers publish may often be seen the name of one or two writers for the press, of whom the most widely known is, perhaps, Chevalier Wyndham. The system is always the same. A celebrity—a peer will probably—be chancery; as many more peers, ambassadors and persons of high degree as can be induced to support him; persistent advertising; and then to extract from them, and from the public attracted by them, a hateful of contributions by processes which may be described as half begging and half blackmail—a shameless demand on public charity for alas to a profession which, beyond all other professions, ought to be absolutely and even factitiously independent of every sort of obligation, public or private. Other professors provide for their own poor. Journalism alone goes to its knees to a general public. It has done so for I know not how many years; yet English journalists continue to express a mild surprise that the profession does not rise faster in public esteem.

MR. LOWELL ON THE PRESS.

Certainly it is a little odd that the speeches at such a dinner should take the tone which prevailed last night. When the journalists put off their character of guide, philosopher and friend, gods, and appears as a mendicant, it is his poverty and not his merits one would expect to hear of. If the orator stuck to his text he would dilate on the distresses of newspaper writers, and explain with still greater particularity why the public, which daily submits to be instructed, amused, and very often lectured by him, should come to his relief when he can lecture no more. But the oratory of this occasion took quite another turn and tone. Cardinal Manning, who proposed the foreign Ministers, made no reference of any kind to the press. Mr. Lowell, who responded, after a good word for the future of his own country, bestowed a general panegyric upon the press and its prosperity, and then, to the astonishment, I am sure, of his hearers, applied himself to constructing an apology for the society journal. The interviewer, in Mr. Lowell's opinion, performs a useful office in enabling public men out of power to make speeches from which he would otherwise be precluded. A man's after-dinner opinions must not be taken too seriously, and it is possible enough that Mr. Lowell's voice and face indicated to those who heard him that this was a joke. But the passing on society journalism is remarkable enough to be quoted:

"I admit a moment ago to what is sometimes a disagreeable or may become a very disagreeable and dangerous quality of the press, and that is the entering to the universal curiosity which leads to an invasion of the privacy of individuals. But I do not mean that has been heard of it, and make all here in a reverent light than that which is said to be upon a throne. But when we consider it, think all thoughtful men should be anxious to have the press informed of a considerable portion of mankind, their counsels are external to them, and that Mrs. Grimes in short, is a man's private law. I think we can see here in this direction the progress of society, and in the promoting purity of life and a high code of public morals. [Cheers.]

HIS VIEWS ON PERSONAL JOURNALISM.

That strikes one as a very arguable proposition; but, putting argument aside, one would like to ask Mr. Lowell what he thinks of the practical results of his experiment so far as it has been tried in these latter days. There have been three great developments of personal journalism during this generation—in Paris, in London, and in New-York, and in some other parts of America. Mr. Lowell has been in positions to know something of all three. Does he really think that the British and journalism of Paris under and since the Second Empire has been highly serviceable in promoting purity of life and a high code of public morals? The oldest of the society papers in London was started, I think, about twelve years ago. The purity of London life and its code of public morals have improved or deteriorated, in Mr. Lowell's opinion, during that period, and if it has been improved, which I am afraid it would be rash to assert, is the improvement due to these papers? I need not press the question with reference to New-York. It would be too much to expect improvement where perfection already existed. Mr. Lowell had previously laid down as a general proposition that such publicity as the press gives is more useful than harmful. No doubt it is, on the whole; but whether Mr. Lowell's illustrations are happy illustrations of the uses of publicity may be a question. Sound or unsound in doctrine, his speech was remarkable, like most of his speeches to dinner companies, for its ease of humor and allusion, and for the adroitness with which brilliant intellectual gifts are turned to use in discourse which, in point of form, is studiously kept down to a conversational level.

Sir Stafford Northcote was present of the evening, and made what may be called the regulation harangue. Of this there were two or three varieties. One orator takes a historical review of the press; another confines himself to its present condition, the statistics of which he carefully gets up for the occasion; a third enlarges upon the inestimable value of a free press and its services to English liberty; a fourth patronizes it, while it was reserved for Lord Salisbury to deliver a harangue composed of subtle sarcasm in his best *Saturday Review* manner; a manner long since departed. Sir Stafford Northcote, whose leading trait is perhaps amiability, and is certainly not originality, gave his hearers a ragout of all these. There is nothing in his well-meant but slightly commonplace observations which need detain us, nor anything striking in his speech except the tacit assumption, common to it and to all others, that the newspaper world was really represented at the dinner. Every such speech is an essentially absurd speech. The press, cries the orator, is free, powerful and prosperous, and for twenty minutes it enlarges upon its freedom, its power, its prosperity; winding up with a plea for gifts of money to indigent members of this free, powerful and prosperous corporation.

A very eminent member of the House of Commons was asked not long ago whether he knew a certain editor. "Oh yes. I meet him often in the lobby." "What is he doing there?" "Touting for news," was the answer.

Another member of the same House at the same time was desirous to a friend the Irish followers of Mr. Parnell. "One of them," said he, "was

lately a billiard marker. Another was taken from behind the bar of a public-house. A third was just a corner-leader." Then, pausing and drawing a long breath and a longer face, he added, "And do you know, they say some of them have been on the press."

ENGLISH OPINION OF JOURNALISM.

Neither of these interesting anecdotes was related at the Newspaper Press Fund dinner. They would have been thought out of place, and the distinguished strangers who are present on these occasions observe the rules of polite society, as elsewhere. But the anecdotes are true. They are also typical. They do really indicate the feelings with which a considerable portion of the English public regard journalists and journalists. Such feelings and such opinions are slowly giving way to other and juster estimates of the position of the press. But the men who promote and perpetuate this press clearly may well fit themselves whether those juster estimates are likely to come sooner or later for their wall-murder efforts. The English are gradually prone to trying things by a money test. There are many reasons why the press stands lower than it ought to stand in this country, many obstacles to its advancement one of which will certainly be removed when it shall show self-respect enough to provide for its own pence.

G. W. S.

SUMMER LEISURE.

CHAMING WEATHER AT SARATOGA. PRAYERS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S RESTORATION—SERVICES IN THE CHURCHES—LATE ARRIVALS.

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N. Y., July 11.—The weather to-day has been deliciously cool, a delightful change in comparison with the sultry state of the atmosphere yesterday.

The day-long prayer meetings—a religious feature in Saratoga—began this morning in the New England Congregational Church, where they will be held throughout the season. The entire session was devoted to prayers for the prompt recovery of President Garfield. The attendance was very large, and the meetings were presided over by the Rev. T. W. Jones, pastor of the church.

A new company, the Long Beach Construction Company, is building on the east end of the beach hotel several rooms, where grand suites are to be given, and also a dozen cottages, to cost \$3,000 each. A. E. Baker is the architect, and the work is to be done in a Gothic style.

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